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20 August 1948

Mr. Thomas M. Johnson

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Your letter of 18 August arrived today, and I am answering it immediately in order that your plans may not be entirely disturbed.

I am afraid that you will think I am trying to run out on you, but I am leaving Washington the first week in September for a brief trip out of the country, and I shall not be back before the end of October. Consequently, if you can postpone your dinner and luncheon as suggested until the November meeting, I shall be happy to come up then. I am writing you at once in order that arrangements will not be started and then have to be cancelled.

Thank you for your kind comments and with best wishes, believe me,

Sincerely,

*signed & dispatched via air*  
R. H. Hillenkoetter  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central  
Intelligence

8-20-48

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Distribution:  
Director  
Central Records

Note for record: Reply received, dated 23 Aug 48. "Many thanks for your prompt reply. I am sorry you cannot accept for Sept but very glad that you can for November. Immediately on my return to New York, I will check on this and shall be glad to get in touch with you on your return to this country. However I think very probably that it can be arranged for some Wednesday in the latter half of November. Wishing you a pleasant and successful trip abroad, I am, \*\*"

Note for Record: Basic letter of  
18 Aug 48 sent to Central Records for file on  
11/3/48.

FILE: SPENCE  
(Thomas M. Johnson)